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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
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SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS OF AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER
LANDING IN BURMA

1. NOVEMBER 3 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED AN ARTICLE FILED IN VIENTIANE BY RONK OF DISPATCH NEWS SERVICE STATING AN AIR AMERICAN HELICOPTER WAS FORCED TO LAND IN BURMA IN MAY 1971 WHILE ON A CLANDESTINE MISSION TO "CIA CAMPS" IN BURMA AND THAT A BURMESE MILITARY ATTACHE AND US INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WERE ABOARD. WE PRESUME RONK STORY BASED BELATELY ON THE TACHILEK LANDING OF LAST NOVEMBER (RANGOON 3265 AND VIENTIANE 7425).

2. BERLINER OF DISPATCH NEWS SERVICE QUERIED US ON THE INCIDENT BEFORE PUBLICATION AND WE PROVIDED FACTUAL BACKGROUND, BUT NEWS ITEM AS PUBLISHED DID NOT REFLECT OUR BRIEFING. SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 3 AND WE HAVE NO FOLLOW-UP INQUIRIES. RONK ARTICLE BEING POUCHED. ROGERS

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State Dept. review completed

